

July 12, 2018

The July 12, 2018 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Paul Tarlowe, held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1976.

Present were Paul Tarlowe, Dawn Smith and Glenn Todd; Robert Jewell was excused.

Minutes: It was MOVED by Ms. Smith to accept and approve the minutes of the June 14, 2018 meeting, seconded by Mr. Tarlowe; all in favor with one abstention.

#### Environmental Discussion

The efforts of the Green Team were discussed, particularly the Sustainable Jersey accreditation. Also, the idling of automobiles was discussed with a suggestion to offer a poster contest. A flyer announcing such an event could be posted on the town website. Ms. Fascenelli will check on guidelines. Lead paint also came up for discussion.

An application for Flood Hazard Permits prepared for DPW Holdings was reviewed; the property is on Hazen Road. No environmental discrepancies were found.

Cafferata Park: Mr. Todd offered suggestions to properly assemble and care for bluebird houses. The nesting boxes at Cafferata Park are nailed closed at the front and should be free to swing out to remove the old nests, and that should be done after each nest has emptied. Mr. Tarlowe and Ms. Smith will care for the boxes over the winter. Mr. Tarlowe suggested soliciting scouts and other groups to monitor the boxes at the park. A message on the website was suggested.

Mr. Tarlowe has a kestrel box that is being offered; Mr. Todd suggested mounting it high on a pole.

Recycling: Governor Murphy may veto the current plastic bags issue conditionally or entirely. Members discussed the issues including a total ban of single-use plastic bags or charging for them at stores, and at issue is where that money would go. Ms. Fascenelli suggested putting together a letter to distribute at Township Committee meetings including mention of the cloth bags that are always available at the municipal building.

Ms. Fascenelli reported a recent presentation of Lessons Learned from Colorado's Marijuana Experiment, an issue currently under discussion in New Jersey; the handout was shared with the Environmental Commission. Issues were explained including a municipality's decision to opt out of allowing the growth of plants. After opting in, it is difficult to opt out; opting in allows growers to set up shop. The possibility of having such a presentation in the future was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth A. Pante, Clerk

**Next meeting date:**  
**August 9, 2018**